

REMARKABLE PHENOMENON.

On Monday the 14th inst. at about the break of day or a little after, the weather being moderate, calm, and the atmosphere somewhat cloudy and foggy, a meteor or fire ball, passing from a northern point, dislodged over the western part of this state, with a tremendous report. At the same time several pieces of stony substance fell to the earth in Fairfield county. One mass was driven against a rock and dashed into small pieces, a peck of which remained on the spot. About three miles distant, in the town of Weston, another large piece fell upon the earth, of which a mass of about thirty pounds weight remains entire—and was exhibited the same day at town meeting. A small mass has been sent to Yale College, and examined by a number of gentlemen. It was immediately perceived by professor Silliman to contain a metal—and on presenting it to a magnet, a powerful attraction proved it to be iron.

This is, we believe, the first instance in the United States, in which the substance of this species of meteor has been found on the earth, though it has been often in Europe. Fortunately the facts respecting this wonderful phenomenon, are capable of being ascertained and verified with precision, and an investigation will, we understand, be immediately commenced for the purpose.

We request gentlemen who may have observed it in distant parts of the state to favour the public with their observations.—It is desirable to ascertain the course or direction of the meteor; the point of compass in which it appeared at different places; its general appearance and velocity; the manner of its explosion, and the time between the explosion and the report.

The violent hurricane, which was so severely felt in many parts of South America, is represented to have committed dreadful ravages at Campeachy. It commenced there on the 5th of September, and continued with unabated violence, until the 7th, during which the sea rose 18 feet above its level, destroyed 200 houses, 50 vessels of different descriptions, and a number of inhabitants. A felucca which was seven leagues to windward of that place, at the time the hurricane commenced, was found in a field of corn, a league from the shore, after the elemental conflict had ceased. A brig likewise went over one of the wharfs, and was found alongside the church, when the water had receded. The greatest consternation prevailed among the inhabitants, such a terrible visitation never having before been experienced at that place.

[N. Y. Pap.]

A dreadful carnage has taken place in Africa, among some of the principal tribes there. From all we have been able to learn, it appears that one of the chiefs, a very rich and powerful prince, of the tribe of the Affenties, died, and, in conformity with the custom, was buried, and a large portion of his treasure deposited in the grave. The chief of another tribe found means to approach the tomb, from which he stole the money: the violation was discovered, the thief was pursued, who it was discovered had taken refuge with another chief, with whom he shared the booty, and these two were joined by a third.—These three tribes were followed by the party aggrieved, with a very large army. One of the offending parties proceeded to the English fort at Anamaboo, where 7000 women and children had previously taken shelter; the fort was attacked by the Affenties, in the defence of which 1,700 of them were killed. They were afterwards informed that the chief of the tribe of whom they were in search had escaped to Cape Coast Castle, for which place they instantly commenced their march, and on their arrival there, he was given up by the governor, with whom they separated on the most friendly terms, and proceeded again in search of the other offenders, carrying fire and murder through the whole of the country through which they marched. When at Cape Coast, they had proceeded about 600 English miles from their native country, and it is said, that in the course of their march not less than from 30,000 to 40,000 persons had fallen victims to their ferocity.

[New-York Oracle.]

MAMMOTH PUMPKINS.

Produced in a garden in the town of Southborough, the last year, from a single seed, which was accidentally sown, 19 Pumpkins. Two of this number were small, and one of them of middling size, was so defective that it could not be removed. The remaining sixteen weighed 315 pounds. Six or seven of these were nearly of the same size, the largest of which weighed 34 pounds. The vine on which they grew consisted of three principal branches. These, with the smaller branches which issued from them, when placed in a line measured 40 rods. [Palladium.]

A gentleman from Dandee has just invented and finished a model of a door, which, when once locked, it is impossible for a stranger to open; and in case of a thief making the attempt, it is equally impossible for him to avoid being caught in the act, and detained on the spot, until a person acquainted with the invention comes to his relief.—It will be found highly beneficial for the security of banking and counting houses, repositories of plate, &c. Should the attempt be made on the latter, in any gentleman's town or country residence, in the absence of the family, the delinquent will inevitably be starved to death for his temerity, unless relieved by a person entirely acquainted with the proper method of opening.

[London paper.]

To the Editor of the Expositor.

SIR, Your paper being intended to communicate facts important to the statist; I send you for publication, the following statement of the progress of the sales of the public lands, which are collected from official documents.

	Acres.	Dollars.
In 1803 acres sold	199,080	for \$98,161
1804	373,611	772,851
1805	619,266	1,235,953
1806	473,211	1,004,358
1807	284,180	588,610

The neat sales since the opening of the land offices, have amounted to 2,669,994 acres which have sold for 5,547,865 dollars, or somewhat better than 2 1-2 dollars on the average per acre.

As the total of the public lands on this side the Mississippi, amounts to more than three hundred millions of acres, the quantity of public debts, which might in the event of a war, be redeemed by this immense fund is almost incalculable—for the value of the lands will continue to increase with the increase of our population, as well as of our circulating debt; and of all money, and thus bring the public lands to their acme, or say, at least to fifty dollars per acre.

The following is a progressive view of the revenue of England.

In 1100 it was £. 100,000	In 1500 it was £. 400,000
1200 100,000	1600 500,000
1300 200,000	1700 4,000,000
1400 300,000	1800 30,000,000
And in 1807, about,	50,000,000

It is an unpleasant item in our national history, that during the last four years 39,310 human beings have been imported from Africa into the city of Charleston alone; viz.

In the year 1804	5,386.
" 1805	6,790.
" 1806	11,458.
" 1807	15,676.

This disgraceful species of commerce, carried on the 1st of the 11th month.

Introduction of Christianity into China.

A catholic missionary at Pekin, named Odeadato, has been sentenced to imprisonment for life, at Geho, in Tartary, for having converted numerous Chinese to Christianity. A native of Canton, named Chin-yo-vang, and some soldiers, who were instrumental to the pious labours of Odeadato, have been punished, and all their converts have been sent into banishment and slavery at Elu, in Tartary. The books on christianity, the blocks with which they were printed, and all the papers of Odeadato and his followers, have been publicly burned, and several military and civil officers have been banished, for their negligence in suffering the people to be corrupted.

The Gospel had been publicly preached in numerous churches, and it is supposed has made such impressions amongst the natives, as even the persecution to which they are exposed cannot efface.

Extract of a letter from a member of the assembly of Virginia, to his friend in Washington, dated the 22d January, 1808.

"Two caucuses were held here last night, on the subject of the Presidential election, one by the friends of Mr. Madison, and the other by the friends of Mr. Monroe. The result of which was, that there were 134 members of the legislature for Mr. Madison, and 57 for Mr. Monroe. The friends of Mr. Madison formed their electoral ticket and corresponding committees."

A letter from Lisbon, of the 13th Nov. to a gentleman in N. York, says, we have a Russian Squadron here of five sail of the line and two frigates. Four more sail of the line are momentarily expected. We hope to be able to beat off JOHN BULL, if he should attempt to come Copenhagen over us.

A letter received by a mercantile house from their correspondents abroad, informs that "tobacco is 20 dollars at Cadiz, and 16 dollars at Amsterdam and rising." In Virginia it may be purchased at 20s.

Another letter mentions that Barbice and Isle of France cotton is selling for 80 cents at Nantz and rising. Here it may be bought at 20 cents and dull at that.

[Am. Daily Ado.]

The British armed schooner in Hampton Roads has dispatches for Mr. ROSE, and is to proceed immediately to Annapolis. [Norfolk Herald, Jan. 23.]

All British seamen have been discharged from the service of the U. States in armed vessels lying in the port of New-York.

The senate of Virginia has rejected by 13 votes to 6, the proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States, concerning the Federal judiciary.

Recipe to keep arms bright and clean.

M. Contee has discovered a method of preventing the oxydation (rusting) of iron and steel. This consists in mixing with oil varnish, at least one half, or at most four-fifths of highly rectified spirit of turpentine, according to the greater or less degree of durability intended to be produced by it. This varnish is to be lightly and evenly applied with a sponge, and the article put in a place free from dust. Articles so varnished are said to retain their metallic texture and never contract the smallest spot of rust.

Annapolis:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1808.

SUMMARY.

OUR mails furnish us with London dates down to the 27th November. Mr. Forbes, our consul at Hamburg, has issued a circular, warning all American captains from entering the ports on the river Elbe, Jade and Weser, as all American vessels had been STOPPED, and American property in those ports SEIZED. A Russian fleet arrived at Lisbon, all British property in Portugal confiscated. The prince regent of Portugal had his fleet in readiness with every thing on board, prepared to embark for the Brazils, in case of a domiciliary visit of the French armies at Lisbon. Letters received at New-York, by the brig Fame, (which escaped in the night) from Bremen, state, that an embargo had existed there on all American vessels, and that none of them are permitted to sail but in ballast, lest they should go to England. There war between the United States and France was looked for as certain. Capt. Urian, arrived at Bolton from Leghorn, which he left October 14; the Americans there had addressed a memorial to general Armstrong complaining of their detention by Buonaparte's decrees, under the pretence of having cargoes of British growth or manufactures, praying his influence for their liberation. News of the embargo in the United States is said to have been received at the Havanna on the 7th ult. Flour was then selling at twelve dollars, but it was expected that it would rise shortly to thirty dollars. The death of lord Grey, and the intended resignations of lord Castlereagh and the duke of Portland, a new change in the British ministry will take place; marquis Wellesly to be the premier. A severe frost lays a letter from Cork, set in and destroyed more than one half of the crops of potatoes—they were selling from 30 shillings to £.5 the tun; oat meal not to be had; wheat advancing; but prospects of supply, and a scarcity anticipated. Sir J. W. Craig, governor of Canada, has issued orders, dated Quebec, December, for the arrest of a Frenchman, of the name of Canau, or Cassino, for attempting to stir up the Canadians to a revolt.

[America.]

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

By the arrival of the Swedish Schooner Wolf from Charleston, via Norfolk, we have been politely favoured with a perusal of the Norfolk Ledger of Tuesday last, from which we make the following important extracts. London dates are down to the 31st of December by the arrival of the Powhatan, 47 days from London.

The papers of Dec. 4, contain the declaration of war against England by Russia. In this Russia enumerates her causes of complaint, among which are the apathy of Britain in the concerns of the late contest which herself had kindled, and her violation of the neutrality of Denmark. The emperor of Russia recalls his minister from the British court—sends to the British minister, and declares that he abrogates every act hitherto concluded between Great-Britain and Russia, and particularly the convention concluded in 1801. He proclaims anew the principles of the armed neutrality, that monument of the wisdom of the emperors Catharine, and binds himself never to cede from that system.

[Idid.]

NORFOLK, Jan. 25:

We have confined our extracts for this paper principally to the official documents relative to war and commerce.—War between Russia and Great-Britain has been officially announced, and it may possibly be followed by every continental power, not excepting Austria, and even Sweden. At the same time the continent is in a very agitated state, from the new and extraordinary decrees and orders of the great belligerent powers.

We have had only time to give a very hasty perusal to our papers, from which we notice that the fate of Portugal is yet undecided, but from an article in the Paris Moniteur, we conclude that Portugal has fallen under the displeasure of France for permitting the English property to leave that country. Spain is in the most distracted state, the late conspiracy is supposed to be no thing more than a contrivance to give a new dynasty to that country.

The Russian fleet, or rather a part of it, after leaving Gibraltar put into the Tagus, more it is believed from accident than design, and owing to tempestuous weather. Three of the Russian ships parted from those that went into the Tagus, and had not been heard of after the gale.

Sir Sidney Smith had arrived before Lisbon, and another British division was on the point of sailing for the same place, but for what object the London prints differ much.

The British forces are stated to have evacuated Egypt and Sicily.

Provisions in Portugal were very scarce and dear, flour was at sixteen dollars and two-thirds per barrel, and likely to rise.

Letters from Holland to England, stated that serious disputes had arisen between our minister at Paris, Mr. Armstrong, and the French government, on account of the latter having demanded that the United States should exclude British commerce from their ports: That Mr. Armstrong had renewed his address to the masters of American vessels to quit the ports of France and Holland, without delay.